

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please amend Figure 7 and 8 to include the legend “Prior Art”. Replacement sheets are submitted herewith.

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 1 – 8 are pending in the above-identified applicants. In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 5, and 7 stand rejected under 5 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Goto in view of Yamashita. Claims 3, 4, 6, and 8 stand rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Goto and Yamashita, and further in view of Ban. Applicants traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is related to a method for correcting lens shading in an image data captured by a camera wherein correction data for each pixel is obtained by reference to an approximation function that indicates a relation between distance values from an optical-axis position and correction data for lens shading corrections. The approximation function is divided into a plurality of segments, and represented in each segment by a quadratic function defined by a predetermined number of sample points.

The Examiner correctly acknowledges that Goto fails to disclose the use of an approximation function, as recited in claim 1, and relies on Yamashita to overcome this deficiency. The Examiner asserts that Yamashita discloses a shading correction system in which a shading correction value can be obtained based on distance and a parabolic wave. Yamashita discloses a limiting circuit 23 which clips the level-adjusted parabolic signal to form a correction signal that has a waveform such as those depicted in Figure 2. However, the correction signal disclosed by Yamashita, even if combined with Goto, does not disclose or suggest an approximation function which is divided into a plurality of segments, and is represented in each segment by a quadratic function defined by a predetermined number of sample points.

Accordingly, as each and every limitation must be disclosed or suggested by the cited prior art references in order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (see, M.P.E.P. § 2143.03), and the cited references fail to disclose at least the features described above, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

Independent claims 3, 5, and 6 also include an approximation function including similar features to those described above in reference to claim 1. As none of the cited references, including Ban, disclose or suggest the approximation function recited in the claims, these claims are also patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

Under Federal Circuit guidelines, a dependent claim is nonobvious if the independent claim upon which it depends is allowable because all the limitations of the independent claim are contained in the dependent claims, *Hartness International Inc. v. Simplicatic Engineering Co.*, 819 F.2d at 1100, 1108 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Accordingly, as the independent claims are patentable for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

III. Conclusion

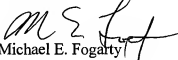
Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Application No.: 10/790,699

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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